

Strasserism vs Hitlerism

By Zoltanous

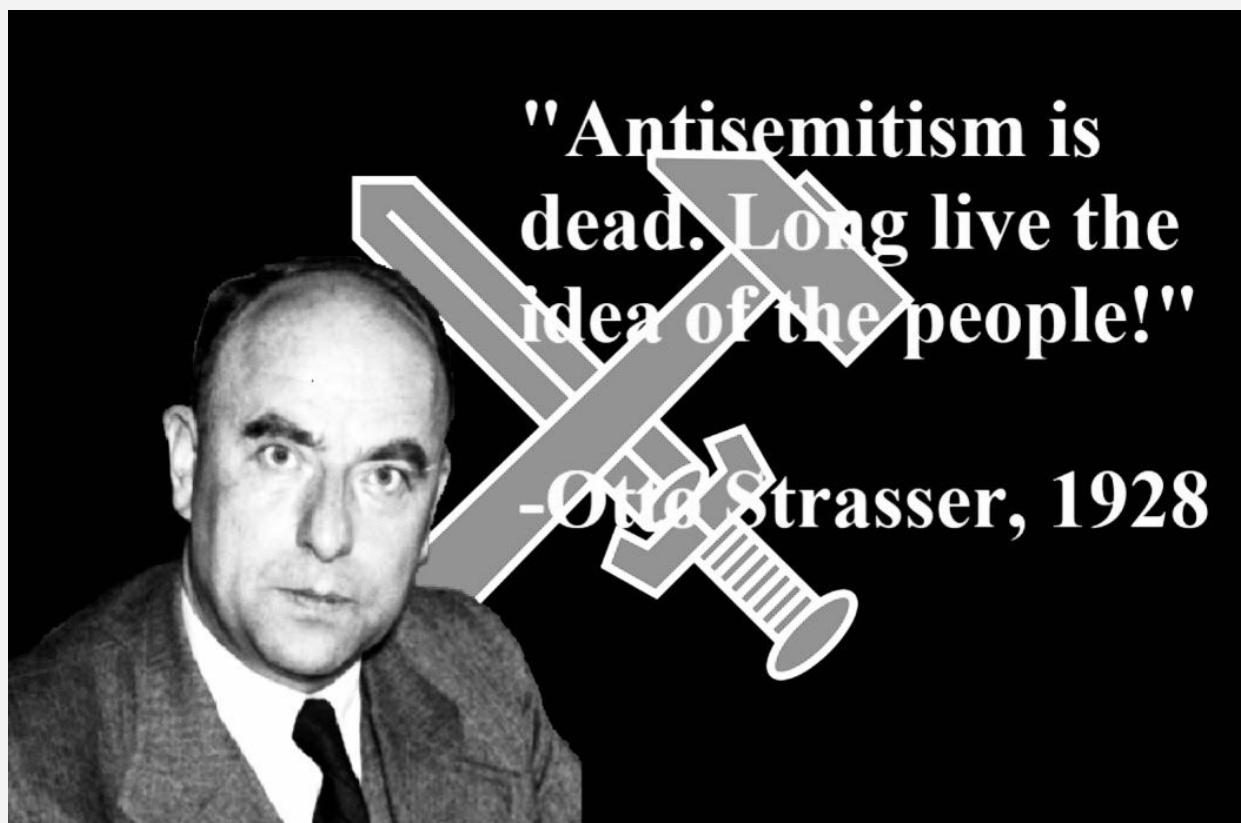


The Disputes

Strasserism was a political opponent to Hitler's Germany which it was rightly suppressed. It's a more radical anti-elitist and anti-capitalist variant of the ideology that isn't racially reductionist. It's a bit of a middle ground between marxism and Nationalism thus the name Social Nationalism. Otto Strasser was weak on the Jewish Question just like biological Race. Otto like his brother Gregor proposed that Jews choose to individually: become a national minority with their own autonomous area aka regional segregation (this applied to other races.), or fully assimilate into Germany, renouncing their religion in the process. Otto Strasser tends to look at jews like any other race and if they have consistent cultural interaction this leads to problems. In other words get rid of the culture and you'll end the internal conflict. Hitlerism holds that as long as you have multiracialism you'll have chaos in society. Gregor fails to acknowledge Blood & Soil with how it ties into Racial ecology because much of his politics come from his religious views of Catholicism. Otto fails because he believes everything to be subject to material conditions. The Strasserist historically supported a revolution sorta like Hitler but they took it several steps further. They proposed killing of the upper class with class war. Total Industrial nationalization

under a Guild Socialist model of product resembling feudalism and modern movements like Distributism. The killing of the upper class is essentially radical class reductionism, with slogans such as “death to the bourgeoisie” being quite popular with them. They considered any type of private enterprise that made profit to be theft.

Otto Strasser on Jews

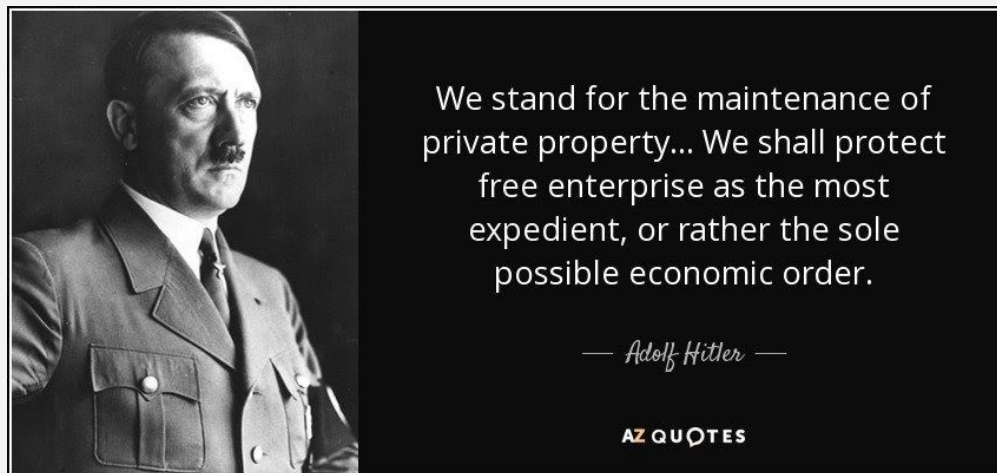


Gregor took part in the Beer Hall Putsch and after its failure was briefly imprisoned. On his release he sold his apothecary shop and used the money to devote himself wholly to the party. Gregor Strasser moved to North Germany where he quickly became one of the most important figures in SturmAbteilung (SA). He developed a large following and became leader of the revolutionary wing of the NSDAP. Strasser was a committed socialist who believed in "undiluted socialist principles". Like Ernst Roehm, opposed Hitler's policy of trying to win the support of the country's major industrialists. His outspoken views caused a deep rift with Hitler and other leaders of the party. In 1926 he joined forces with his brother, Otto Strasser, to establish the Berliner Arbeiter Zeitung, a left-wing newspaper, that advocated world revolution. It also supported Lenin and the Bolshevik government in the Soviet Union.

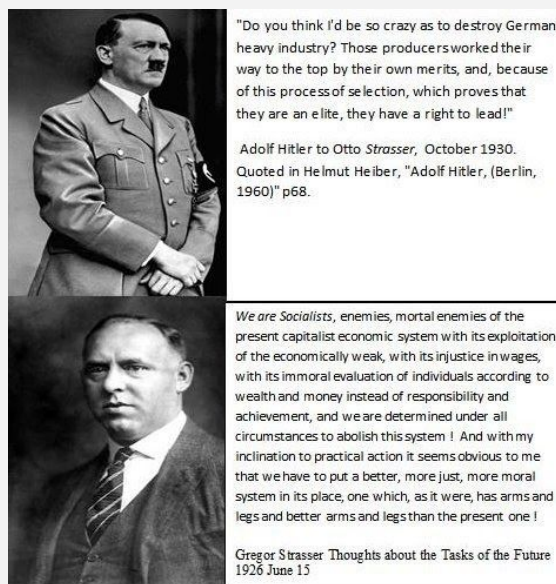
Later that year, Gregor Strasser was elected to the Bavarian Legislature. His biographer, Louis L. Snyder, has argued: "In this capacity he proved to be an able organizer, an indefatigable if weak speaker, a shrewd

politician, and a lover of action. Using his parliamentary immunity to protect him from libel suits and holding a free railway pass, he turned his energy to seeking the highest post in the National Socialist Party. He would push Hitler aside and replace him. Gregor Strasser regarded himself as a proud intellectual who had far more to offer the party than Hitler." In one speech Strasser argued: "The rise of National Socialism is the protest of a people against a State that denies the right to work. If the machinery for distribution in the present economic system of the world is incapable of properly distributing the productive wealth of nations, then that system is false and must be altered. The important part of the present development is the anti-capitalist sentiment that is permeating our people."

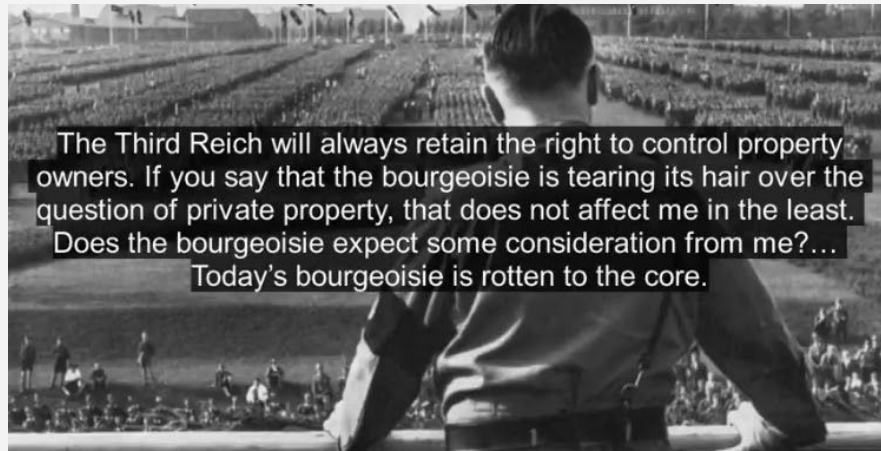
Hitler on Enterprise & Property



Hitler & Strasser on Enterprise



Adolf Hitler on Control



Both brothers attacked private ownership of property as propounded by Otto Strasser in *The Structure of German Socialism* (1931) and acclaiming class warfare in the name of the proletariat. As early as 1925 Gregor Strasser in a speech in the Reichstag called for an “economic revolution involving the nationalisation of the economy.” This being the stance of Otto’s 1931 Action program of Fighting Community of Revolutionary National Socialists: “This revolution is socialist, i.e. it denies the sanctity of private ownership of land, natural resources, and the means of production” Hitler’s own views on socialism are evident in a debate he had over two days in May 1930 with then-party member Otto Strasser. Strasser and his brother Gregor, who was an avowed socialist of sorts, were a part of the Nazi Party’s left wing, arguing in favor of political socialism as an essential ingredient in National Socialism but Hitler did not agree. When Strasser argues for “revolutionary socialism,” Hitler dismisses the idea, arguing that workers are too simple to ever understand socialism: “Your socialism is Marxism pure and simple. You see, the great mass of workers only wants bread and circuses. Ideas are not accessible to them and we cannot hope to win them over. We attach ourselves to the fringe, the race of lords, which did not grow through a miserabilist doctrine and knows by the virtue of its own character that it is called to rule, and rule without weakness over the masses of beings and when Strasser calls for the return of private property to the workers and dismisses the role of private property in an industrialized economy, Hitler tells him that it will not only ruin “the entire nation” but also “end all progress of humanity.”

Thus, Hitler argues, a “workers council” taking charge of a company would only get in the way. “Our great heads of industry are not concerned with the accumulation of wealth and the good life, rather they are concerned with responsibility and power. They have acquired this right by natural selection: they are members of the higher race. But you would surround them with a council of incompetents, who have no notion of anything. No economic leader can accept that.” Hitler isn’t making the case for socialism, much to Strasser’s dismay. He is making the case for fascism — in his view, not just an ideal system to organize

government, but the only real option. “A system that rests on anything other than authority downwards and responsibility upwards cannot really make decisions,” he tells Strasser. “Fascism offers us a model that we can absolutely replicate! As it is in the case of Fascism, the entrepreneurs and the workers of our National Socialist state sit side by side, equal in rights, the state strongly intervenes in the case of conflict to impose its decision and end economic disputes that put the life of the nation in danger.”

Debate between Otto Strasser and Adolf Hitler In 1930.

"THE CORE OF THE TWO MEN'S DISAGREEMENT WAS THEIR VARYING INTERPRETATION OF WHAT WAS MEANT BY THE TERM "SOCIALISM" IN THE PARTY PROGRAMME. STRASSER ACCUSED HITLER OF "CHOKING OFF REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM IN THE INTEREST OF KEEPING THE PARTY LEGAL AND COOPERATING WITH THE MAINSTREAM RIGHT-WING PARTIES (HUGENBERG, STAHLHELM, ETC.)." AN AGITATED HITLER RESPONDED: "I AM A SOCIALIST, BUT WHAT YOU MEAN BY SOCIALISM IS NOTHING BUT CRASS MARXISM. THE MASSES OF WORKERS ONLY WANT PANEM ET CIRCENSES. THEY HAVE NO COMPREHENSION OF ANY SORT OF IDEALS."

HITLER ALSO REAFFIRMED HIS AXIOMATIC BELIEF THAT RACE AND NOT CLASS WARFARE WAS THE MOTOR OF HISTORY. "THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE REVOLUTION, THE REVOLUTION OF RACE," HE PROCLAIMED. "THERE IS NO ECONOMIC, POLITICAL OR SOCIAL REVOLUTION. THE FUNDAMENTAL STRUGGLE IS ALWAYS THE SAME: THE STRUGGLE OF A RACIALLY INFERIOR LOWER CLASS AGAINST A DOMINANT HIGH RACE. THE DAY THE HIGHER RACE FORGETS THIS IRON LAW, IT HAS LOST THE BATTLE."

STRASSER WANTED CERTAINTY, SO HE POSED THE CARDINAL QUESTION OF WHAT HITLER INTENDED TO DO AFTER COMING TO POWER. WOULD HE, FOR INSTANCE, PRESERVE THE ASSETS OF LARGE PRIVATELY OWNED COMPANIES LIKE KRUPP? "OF COURSE!" HITLER REPLIED. "DO YOU THINK I'M CRAZY ENOUGH TO DESTROY GERMAN HEAVY INDUSTRY?" STRASSER SHOT BACK: "IF YOU WANT TO RETAIN THE CAPITALIST REGIME YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TALK ABOUT SOCIALISM." WITH THAT, ALL BRIDGES WERE BURNED.

AFTER THEIR DISCUSSION, HITLER DESCRIBED STRASSER AS "AN INTELLECTUAL WHITE JEW" AND "THE PUREST SORT OF MARXIST." HE WAITED TO TAKE ACTION UNTIL AFTER THE SAXONY ELECTION ON 22 JUNE. EIGHT DAYS LATER, HITLER ORDERED GOEBBELS IN AN OPEN LETTER TO PURGE THE BERLIN PARTY CHAPTER OF ALL "SALON BOLSHEVISTS," TELLING HIM TO "ACT RUTHLESSLY AND SEVERELY." GOEBBELS READ HITLER'S MESSAGE OUT LOUD AT A GENERAL PARTY MEETING IN BERLIN ON 30 JUNE, WHERE IT WAS GREETED WITH CRIES OF "STRING THEM UP!"

In Mein Kampf, Hitler wished to have an all out war against the communist. He created the anti-Comintern pact in an attempt to build alliances and later tried to destroy Bolshevism in World War II,

Adolf Hitler was highly suspicious of the brothers and disapproved of their socialist views. On 14th February, 1926, at the NSDAP annual conference, Gregor Strasser called for the destruction of capitalism in any way possible, including cooperation with the Bolsheviks in the Soviet Union. At the conference Joseph Goebbels supported Gregor Strasser but once he realised the majority supported Hitler over Gregor Strasser, he changed sides. From this point on Gregor Strasser began to call Goebbels "the scheming dwarf". Strasserism placed itself purely upon an economic framework of Guild Socialism downplaying the concept of race, whereas Hitler had no favored economic foundation however did use a model similar to Otto von Bismarck's State Socialist economic model that started in 1883 and is associated with the Historical School of Economics.

[Bismarck's reforms at the time also influenced social liberalism in the United Kingdom, progressivism in the United States and the current Nordic social market economy:

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Socialism_\(Germany\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Socialism_(Germany))

Other influences were on Hitler;

Social Democratic Party of Germany:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_Democratic_Party_of_Germany

Centre Party of Germany: [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centre_Party_\(Germany\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centre_Party_(Germany))

A look Into Bismarck's Reforms:

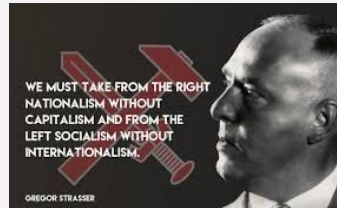
<https://prussianhistory.com/bismarck-and-state-socialism/>]

Hitler's economics during rearmament around 1936 resembled Keynesianism in style of the economy. The Strasser brothers and Hitler also had fundamentally different conceptions of what National Socialism actually means. National Socialism according to Hitler was the Führerprinzip: "Whatever is deemed to be good for the nation was put into practice whether it was capitalism or socialism in the policy. Führerprinzip even called for an absolute State with a Single leader resembling political absolutism." The Strasser brothers objected to this as a lack of democracy in the party. Hitler apparently replied: "You would give every Party member the right to decide on the idea - even to decide whether the leader is true to the so-called idea or not. This is democracy at its worst, and there is no place for such a view with us. With us the Leader and the Idea are one, and every Party member has to do what the leader orders. The Leader incorporates the Idea and alone knows its ultimate goal. Our organization is built up on discipline. I have no wish to see this organization broken up by a few swollen-headed litterateurs." National Socialism according to the Strasser brothers was a perfected version of socialism: National in its scope (as opposed to Marxian Internationalism), and conforming to natural aspects of human nature, but still had an adherence to worker ownership of the means of production.

Rudolf Olden, (1936) has pointed out: "Gregor Strasser, a chemist of Landshut in Bavaria, had borne the brunt of the agitation in North Germany. In one year he made one hundred and eighty speeches and was for a long time better known and respected than Hitler among the volkisch groups on the further side of

the Main. He had sold his pharmacy and invested his capital in politics. The first National Socialist papers that appeared in Berlin were started with his money. Strasser was a useful helper, but an awkward subordinate. He considered himself a Socialist, although his Socialism was little else than Bavarian self-assurance. At one time something that looked very much like a conflict of opposing schools of thought existed in the National Socialist Party."

Gregor on National Socialism

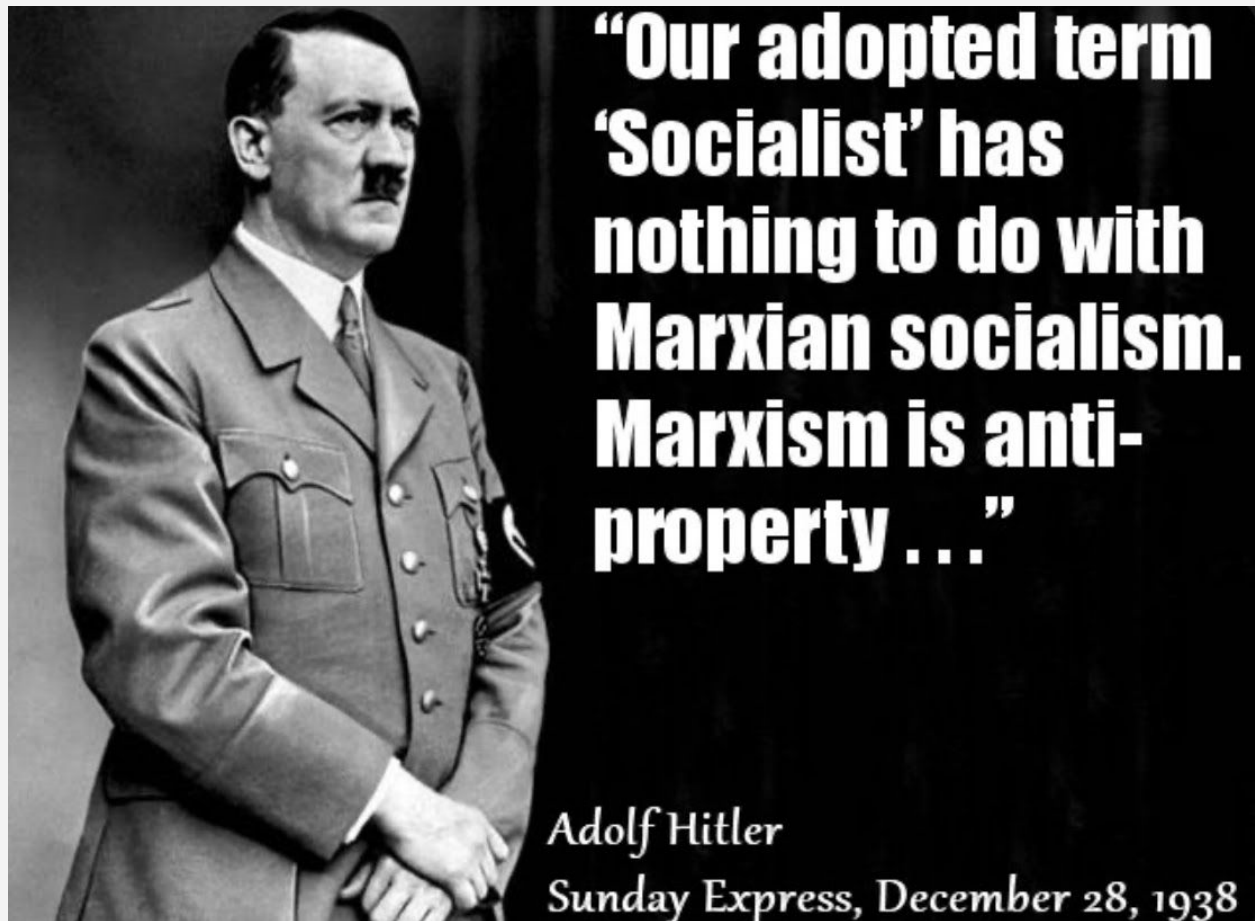


Social Nationalism \Rightarrow National Socialism

Left-wing **nationalism** or leftist **nationalism**, also known as socialist **nationalism**, describes a form of **nationalism** based upon **social** equality (though not necessarily political equality), popular sovereignty and national self-determination.

In Hitler's version of National Socialism, socialism was "German" and focused on the "commonwealth" of everyday Germans as a group of people united as one based entirely on their race. The concept of the "people's community" undergirded all of the National Socialist project. Much like the basic idea of fascism, a word that stems from the Italian word for a bundle of rods tied together tightly, National Socialism was intended to tie Germans together under one leader; Hitler, the führer. In a 1923 interview with George Sylvester Viereck, Hitler said, "In my scheme of the German state, there will be no room for the alien, no use for the wastrel, for the usurer or speculator, or anyone incapable of productive work."

Hitler on National Socialism



In the interview of Adolf Hitler by George Sylvester Viereck that took place in 1923. It was republished in Liberty magazine in July 1932. "Why," I asked Hitler, "do you call yourself a National Socialist, since your party programme is the very antithesis of that commonly accredited to socialism?" "Socialism," he retorted, putting down his cup of tea, pugnaciously, is the science of dealing with the common weal. Communism is not Socialism. Marxism is not Socialism. The Marxians have stolen the term and confused its meaning. I shall take Socialism away from the Socialists. Socialism is an ancient Aryan, Germanic institution. Our German ancestors held certain lands in common. They cultivated the idea of the common weal. Marxism has no right to disguise itself as socialism. Socialism, unlike Marxism, does not repudiate private property. Unlike Marxism, it involves no negation of personality, and unlike Marxism, it is patriotic. We might have called ourselves the Liberal Party. We chose to call ourselves the National Socialists. We are not internationalists. Our socialism is national. We demand the fulfilment of the just claims of the productive classes by the state on the basis of race solidarity. To us state and race are one." The Liberal Party reference here refers to this party: [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Liberal_Party_\(Germany\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Liberal_Party_(Germany)) (Specifically this faction the Right Hegelians "Nationalstaat")

The Strasser brothers wished to appeal to the communists, hoping to radicalize them from the Marxist camp, something Hitler actually supported. Some of the Hitlerist eventually develop a slang word called "Beef Stick" Nazi (The word means red on the inside, brown on the outside). This was a derogatory word directed at Strasserist, accusing them of being Marxist infiltrators. On May 21, 1930, Hitler demanded a showdown. Otto Strasser would have to submit completely to party discipline and do as he was told.

Hitler vs Strasser, Historical Debate:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/institutenr.org/2016/12/30/hitler-vs-strasser-the-historic-debate-of-may-21st-and-22nd-1930-otto-strasser/amp/>

He refused to comply with Hitler's will, whereupon Hitler ordered Goebbels to expel him and his followers from the party. Claiming that he was the true National Socialist, Otto Strasser formed a splinter party, the Union of Revolutionary National Socialists (The Black Front). Strasser now attacked Hitler as "the betrayer of the revolution". In 1930 Otto Strasser cited the NSDAP's inconsistent stance on federalism as one of the reasons for leaving the Party. Otto Strasser was never able to gain much voting strength and when Hitler gained power he fled to Prague. In 1931 he was behind the SA mutiny in Berlin where many SA men were former communists led by the Berlin SA chief, Captain Walter Stennes, who was advised and encouraged in the revolt by Otto Strasser. The authors James & Suzanne Pool, in their book earlier referred to, reach the conclusion that "the evidence indicates that Stennes was financed by several important industrialists who were intent on destroying the Nazis." Otto Strasser himself admits in his book *Flight from Terror* that the foremost financial backer of Stennes was the Jewish multimillionaire, steel and coal industrialist Otto Wolff. Money also came from the major industrialist Hermann Bücher. Hitler, by personal intervention on the spot, quickly swung the great bulk of the SA men away from Stennes and Strasser.

It's believed by some historians that Gregor Strasser may have received financial funding by Silverberg, a banker and an ethnic Jew to oppose Hitler in his own party. The Jewish industrialist Otto Wolff, whom we have come across as paymaster for the Otto Strasser-Walter Stennes plot in 1931, also extended his purse to Gregor in this following year. "Like Silverberg, Wolff had contributed heavily to Strasser..." When in December, 1932, General Kurt von Schleicher became Chancellor, he immediately offered the position of Vice-Chancellor to Gregor Strasser with whom he was conspiring as a move to disrupt Hitler's party. Thereupon Hitler denounced him as a traitor, and he had to resign from the Party. At the Party Congress which followed the alliance with Hugenberg, Gregor Strasser made himself the mouthpiece of the critics. Hugenberg's hopes of the alliance were his fears, thinking the National Socialists would now no longer be able to fight against the elements in the German Nationalist reaction; they would be overwhelmed by the others superior financial strength; they would now be nothing but an appendage of the stronger party. He underestimated Hitler. A man who is only really alive when he is in the centre of the picture, does not easily become an "appendage." He did not understand Hitler either. He took the support of the masses for an end in itself

After Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany industrialists such as Albert Voegler, Gustav Krupp, Alfried Krupp, Fritz Thyssen and Emile Kirdorf, who had provided the funds for the Nazi victory, were unhappy with people such as Gregor Strasser and Ernst Roehm, who argued that the real revolution had still to take place. Many people in the party also disapproved of the fact that Roehm and many other

leaders of the SA were homosexuals. In December 1932, Paul von Hindenburg invited Kurt von Schleicher to become chancellor and invited Strasser to be his deputy. Ernst Hanfstaengel has pointed out: "His plan was to split off the Strasser wing of the Nazi Party in a final effort to find a majority with the Weimar Socialists and Centre. The idea was by no means so ill-conceived and amidst the momentary demoralization and monetary confusion in the Nazi ranks, very nearly came off." Adolf Hitler and Hermann Goering challenged the move claiming it was an attempt to create a split in the NSDAP.

A large number of the SA officers were shot as soon as they were captured but Adolf Hitler decided to pardon Roehm because of his past services to the movement. However, after much pressure from Hermann Goering and Heinrich Himmler, Hitler agreed that Roehm should die. Hitler later alleged that his trusted friend Röhm had entered a conspiracy to take over political power. The Führer was told that Röhm intended to use the SA to bring a socialist state into existence. Hitler came to his final decision to eliminate the socialist element in the party. At first Hitler insisted that Roehm should be allowed to commit suicide but, when he refused, Ernst Roehm was killed by two SS men. Roehm wanted the SA in charge of the military which would have started a civil war with the military due to the public and Military Officers having a dislike of the SA. Shown here by General Werner von Blomberg, the Defence Minister, made a statement to the German Army on the purge of the SA (1st July, 1934) "The Führer with soldierly decision and exemplary courage has himself attacked and crushed the traitors and murderers. The German Army will show its gratitude through devotion and loyalty."

On the 30th of June to the 1934 July 2nd also known as the "Night of the Long Knives, Hitler disempowered the SA's leadership most of whom belonged to the Socialist faction within the NSDAP and had Gregor Strasser killed. On 30th June 1934 Gregor Strasser was arrested by the Gestapo as part of the purge of the socialists. He was taken to Gestapo Headquarters where he was shot in the back of the head. The purge of the SA was kept secret until it was announced by Hitler on 13th July. It was during this speech that Hitler gave the purge its name: Night of the Long Knives (a phrase from a popular Nazi song). Hitler claimed that 61 had been executed while 13 had been shot resisting arrest and three had committed suicide. Others have argued that as many as 400 people were killed during the purge. In his speech Hitler explained why he had not relied on the courts to deal with the conspirators: "In this hour I was responsible for the fate of the German people, and thereby I became the supreme judge of the German people. I gave the order to shoot the ringleaders in this treason."

Otto Strasser collaborated with communist and Jewish groups in his Black Front (1930-1934) organization, when they were trying to split the NSDAP. Around that time, and later, he cooperated with the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS/MI6), which confirms that he was a traitor to Germany. The Strasser brothers both wanted a confederatized Germany, fragmented into small regional areas with autonomy, and big industry was perceived as a threat to that. Both Strasser brothers wanted to destroy the Prussia dominated culture because it had a direct monopoly on power, as the state was extremely hierarchical in structure. This being one of the biggest problems to Hitler due to him wanting to dissolve all federal differences to create a more centralized German State. The periodical World Jewry (28th August, 1936) carried the following report from its Prague correspondent: "The well-known rival of Herr Hitler, Otto Strasser has published an appeal to the German Jewish emigrants to join the newly-formed

organisation of German Jews headed by Herr Rossheim.” ... “In his opinion, the solution of the problem of the Jews in Germany lies in the direction of assimilation...”

In 1938 Otto Strasser moved to Switzerland, and afterwards to France. The British ambassador in Berlin, in a letter to the British Foreign Secretary on the 18th July 1939, said, “So many people, such as Otto Strasser and others of this world are seeking with intense pertinacity to drive us to war with Germany.” According to W.J. West in *The Truth Betrayed* (Duckworth, London, 1987), at the time of the Burgerbraukeller bomb plot, November 1939, which failed to kill Hitler as intended and which the German authorities held to have been masterminded by the British Secret Service working through Otto Strasser there were in fact very strong links between Strasser and the British authorities through Sir Robert Vansittart (Permanent Head of the Foreign Office and later Chief Diplomatic Advisor to the Government) who in October 1939 recommended to the Foreign Secretary Otto Strasser and Hermann Rauschning (another defector responsible for a volume of lies entitled *Hitler Speaks*, exposed by Swiss historian Wolfgang Haenel). After the failure of the bomb plot it is significant that Vansittart turned against Strasser, clearly implying that his reputation was bound up with it. Material from Otto Strasser went to make up the book *Der Führer* which was issued in the name of “Konrad Heiden”, which, along with Rauschning, was used in formulating the indictment of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg whereby leading Germans were put to death and barbarously so by slow strangulation. Strasser material was also made much use of by Dr. William C. Langer as acknowledged in his book *The Mind of Adolf Hitler* (Seeker & Warburg, London, 1972), a piece of wartime propaganda he was assigned to concoct by the American dirty tricks department known as the OSS.

Regarding The Party

On 12th September, Mayr sent Adolf Hitler to attend a meeting of the German Workers Party (GWP). Hitler recorded in *Mein Kampf* (1925): "When I arrived that evening in the guest room of the former Sternecker Brau (Star Corner) I found approximately 20–25 persons present, most of them belonging to the lower classes. The theme of Feder's lecture was already familiar to me; for I had heard it in the lecture course... Therefore, I could concentrate my attention on studying the society itself. The impression it made upon me was neither good nor bad. I felt that here was just another one of these many new societies which were being formed at that time. In those days everybody felt called upon to found a new Party whenever he felt displeased with the course of events and had lost confidence in all the parties already existing. Thus it was that new associations sprouted up all round, to disappear just as quickly, without exercising any effect or making any noise whatsoever." Hitler discovered that the party's political ideas were similar to his own. He approved of Drexler's German nationalism and anti-Semitism but was unimpressed with what he saw at the meeting. Hitler was just about to leave when a man in the audience began to question the logic of Feder's speech on Bavaria. Hitler joined in the discussion and made a passionate attack on the man who he described as the "professor". Drexler was impressed with Hitler and gave him a booklet encouraging him to join the GWP. Entitled, *My Political Awakening*, it described his objective of building a political party which would be based on the needs of the working-class but which,

unlike the Social Democratic Party (SDP) or the German Communist Party (KPD) would be strongly nationalist.

Initially in 1919, Feder did a lecture that drew Hitler into the party. Hitler commented: "In his (Feder's) little book he described how his mind had thrown off the shackles of the Marxist and trades-union phraseology, and that he had come back to the nationalist ideals. The pamphlet secured my attention the moment I began to read, and I read it with interest to the end. The process here described was similar to that which I had experienced in my own case ten years previously. Unconsciously my own experiences began to stir again in my mind. During that day my thoughts returned several times to what I had read; but I finally decided to give the matter no further attention." Drexler had mixed feelings about Hitler but was impressed with his abilities as an orator and invited him to join the party. Adolf Hitler commented: "I didn't know whether to be angry or to laugh. I had no intention of joining a ready-made party, but wanted to found one of my own. What they asked of me was presumptuous and out of the question." However, Hitler was urged on by his commanding officer, Major Karl Mayr, to join. Hitler also discovered that Ernst Röhm, was also a member of the GWP. Röhm, like Mayr, had access to the army political fund and was able to transfer some of the money into the GWP. Drexler wrote to a friend: "An absurd little man has become member No. 7 of our Party."

The German Workers Party used some of this money from Karl Mayr and Ernst Röhm to advertise their meetings. Hitler was often the main speaker and it was during this period that he developed the techniques that made him into such a persuasive orator. Hitler always arrived late which helped to develop tension and a sense of expectation. He took the stage, stood to attention and waited until there was complete silence before he started his speech. For the first few months Hitler appeared nervous and spoke haltingly. Slowly he would begin to relax and his style of delivery would change. He would start to rock from side to side and begin to gesticulate with his hands. His voice would get louder and become more passionate. Sweat poured off him, his face turned white, his eyes bulged and his voice cracked with emotion. He ranted and raved about the injustices done to Germany and played on his audience's emotions of hatred and envy. By the end of the speech the audience would be in a state of near hysteria and were willing to do whatever Hitler suggested. As soon as his speech finished Hitler would quickly leave the stage and disappear from view. Refusing to be photographed, Hitler's aim was to create an air of mystery about himself, hoping that it would encourage others to come and hear the man who was now being described as "the new Messiah".

In February 1920, the German Workers's Party published its first programme which became known as the "Twenty-Five Points". In the programme the party refused to accept the terms of the Versailles Treaty and called for the reunification of all German people to reinforce their ideas on nationalism, equal rights were only to be given to German citizens. "Foreigners" and "aliens" would be denied these rights. To appeal to the working class and socialists, the programme included several measures that would redistribute income and war profits, profit-sharing in large industries, nationalization of trusts, increases in old-age pensions and free education. Gottfried Feder greatly influenced the anti-capitalist aspect of the Nazi programme and insisted on phrases such as the need to "break the interest slavery of international capitalism" and the claim that Germany had become the "slave of the international stock market".

Hitler gave his early impression of Drexler and Karl Harrer in *Mein Kampf* (1925): "Herr Drexler... was a simple worker, as speaker not very gifted, moreover no soldier. He had not served in the Army, and was not a soldier during the war, because his whole being was weak and uncertain, he was not a soldier during the war, and because his whole being was weak and uncertain, he was not a real leader for us. He (and Herr Harrer) were not cut out to be fanatical enough to carry the movement in their hearts, nor did he have the ability to use brutal means to overcome the opposition to a new idea inside the party. What was needed was one fleet as a greyhound, smooth as leather, and hard as Krupp steel." Louis L. Snyder argued that Drexler's political ideas were very important in developing his own philosophy: "Hitler was impressed with Drexler's ideas. He agreed wholeheartedly with the concept that there existed a diabolical Jewish-capitalistic-Masonic conspiracy which had to be counteracted. He believed that Drexler was right: on the one side there were the innocent German worker, farmer, and soldier; on the other there was the common enemy, the capitalistic Jews. From this germ came the essence of Hitler's Nazism." Hitler's reputation as an orator grew and it soon became clear that he was the main reason why people were joining the party. At one meeting in Hofbräuhaus he attracted an audience of over 2,000 people and several hundred new members were enrolled. This gave Hitler tremendous power within the organization as they knew they could not afford to lose him.

Hitler had always been hostile to socialist ideas, especially those that involved racial or sexual equality. However, socialism was a popular political philosophy in Germany after the First World War. This was reflected in the growth in the German Social Democrat Party (SDP), the largest political party in Germany. In the Hofbräuhaus speech February 24th 1920, the DAP changed its name to the "National Socialist German Workers' Party". The word "Socialist" was added by the party's executive committee, over Hitler's objections. Hitler at first suggested the party to be renamed to the Social Revolutionary Party. However Rudolf Jung persuaded Hitler to adopt the NSDAP name by adding "National" to the name of the party. Adolf Hitler then advocated that the party should change its name to the National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP). Hitler, therefore redefined socialism by placing the word "National" before it. He claimed he was only in favour of equality for those who had "German blood". Jews and other "aliens" would lose their rights of citizenship, and immigration of non-Germans should be brought to an end. In April 1920, the German Workers Party became the NSDAP. Hitler became chairman of the new party and Karl Harrer was given the honorary title, Reich Chairman. In June 1921, a mutiny broke out within the party in Munich. Members of the NSDAP executive committee wanted to merge with the rival German Socialist Party, a minor National Socialist party. Upon returning to Munich on 11th of July, Hitler angrily tendered his resignation. The committee members realised that his resignation would mean the end of the party. Hitler announced he would rejoin on the condition that he would replace Drexler as party leader, the rest is history.

Konrad Heiden, a journalist working in Munich, observed the way Hitler gained control of the party: "Success and money finally won for Hitler complete domination over the National Socialist Party. He had grown too powerful for the founders; they "Anton Drexler" among them wanted to limit him and press him to the wall. But it turned out that they were too late. He had the newspaper behind him, the backers, and the growing S.A. At a certain distance he had the Reichswehr behind him too. To break all resistance for good, he left the party for three days, and the trembling members obediently chose him as the first, unlimited chairman, for practical purposes responsible to no one, in place of Anton Drexler, the modest

founder, who had to content himself with the post of honorary chairman (July 29, 1921). From that day on, Hitler was the leader of Munich's National Socialist Movement." An early member of the NSDAP, Ernst Hanfstaengel, has argued that this brought an end to Drexler's influence on Hitler: "Anton Drexler, the original founder of the Party, was there most evenings, but by this time he was only its honorary president and had been pushed more or less to one side. A blacksmith by trade, he had a trade union background and although it was he who had thought up the original idea of appealing to the workers with a patriotic programme, he disapproved strongly of the street fighting and violence which was slowly becoming a factor in the Party's activities and wanted to build up as a working-class movement in an orderly fashion."

Drexler left the NSDAP in 1923. After the reorganization of the NSDAP in February, 1925, he became one of Hitler's opponents. Alan Bullock, claims that the dispute was over long-term political objectives. "Hitler was as much interested in the working class and the lower middle class as Drexler, but he had no more sympathy for them than he had had in Vienna: he was interested in them as material for political manipulation. Their grievances and discontents were the raw stuff of politics, a means, but never an end. Hitler had agreed to the Socialist clauses of the programme, because in 1920 the German working class and the lower middle classes were saturated in a radical anti-capitalism; such phrases were essential for any politician who wanted to attract their support but they remained phrases."

In April 1925, Ernst Röhm came into conflict with Adolf Hitler. He complained that he could not stand the "flatterers" who "unscrupulously crowded around", exploiting his vanity, feeding him on illusions and "venturing no word of contradiction". Röhm decided "to speak openly to his friend as a loyal comrade". Hitler reacted badly and the two men had a vicious argument. Röhm wrote a letter to Hitler begging for the resumption of their old personal friendship, but Hitler did not answer. "Thus the real creator of Adolf Hitler parted with his creature who had grown too great and thought himself even greater." On 14th February 1926, the party Gauleiters attended the Bamberg Party Congress where Adolf Hitler attempted to settle to Nazi Party program. There had been a clash of opinion between northern and southern leaders about future policy. Gregor Strasser and Joseph Goebbels represented the urban, socialist, revolutionary trend, whereas Gottfried Feder reflected rural, racist and populist ideas. At the conference Hitler made a two-hour speech where he opposed the socialism of Goebbels and Gregor Strasser. He argued that the NSDAP must not help Communist-inspired movements. Goebbels was initially appalled by the speech and noted in his diary: "I feel devastated. Hitler a reactionary? Amazingly clumsy and uncertain. Italy and England are natural allies... Short discussion. Strasser speaks. Hesitant, trembling, clumsy, the good honest Strasser. God, how poor a match we are for those swine. Probably one of the greatest disappointments of my life. I no longer believe fully in Hitler." Goebbels and Strasser finally accepted these arguments and in return they received promotion. Strasser was appointed as Propaganda Leader of the NSDAP and Goebbels became Gauleiter of Berlin. Later on Röhm made it clear that he still retained his faith in socialism. As a result Hitler removed him as leader of the SturmAbteilung (SA) and replaced him with Franz Pfeffer von Salomon.

On 2nd September 1930 Hitler relieved Franz Pfeffer von Salomon of his command. Hitler assumed temporary leadership of the Sturmabteilung but decided to forgive Röhm for past indiscretions. A telegram was dispatched from Munich to La Paz. By the end of 1930 Röhm had returned to his native

Germany, and in January 1931 he was named Chief of Staff of the SA. However, as one historian, Toby Thacker, points out, at the same time Hitler was negotiating with Röhm's enemies, industrialists and leaders of the German Army. In just over a year Röhm expanded the SA from 70,000 to 170,000 members. Initially Adolf Hitler refused to sack Röhm and continued to use the brownshirts to break-up meetings held by the German Communist Party (KPD) and the Social Democratic Party (SDP). By 1932 there were nearly 2 million members of the SA and they easily won the battle of the streets against the Communists. When Hitler became Chancellor in 1933 Ernst Röhm made a speech where he stated: "A tremendous victory has been won. But not an absolute victory! The SA and the SS will not tolerate the German revolution going to sleep and being betrayed at the half-way stage by non-combatants. Not for the sake of the SA and SS but for Germany's sake. For the SA is the last armed force of the nation, the last defence against communism. If the German revolution is wrecked by the reactionary opposition, incompetence, or laziness, the German people will fall into despair and will be an easy prey for the bloodstained frenzy coming from the depths of Asia. If these bourgeois simpletons think that the national revolution has already lasted too long, for once we agree with them. It is in fact high time the national revolution stopped and became the National Socialist one. Whether they like it or not, we will continue our struggle - if they understand at last what it is about - with them; if they are unwilling - without them; and if necessary - against them." By 1934 Hitler appeared to have complete control over Nazi Germany, but he constantly feared that he might be ousted by others who wanted his power. Albert Speer pointed out: "After 1933 there quickly formed various rival factions that held divergent views, spied on each other, and held each other in contempt. A mixture of scorn and dislike became the prevailing mood within the party. Each new dignitary rapidly gathered a circle of intimates around him. Thus Himmler associated almost exclusively with his SS following, from whom he could count on unqualified respect. As an intellectual Goebbels looked down on the crude philistines of the leading group in Munich, who for their part made fun of the conceited academic's literary ambitions. Göring considered neither the Munich philistines nor Goebbels sufficiently aristocratic for him and therefore avoided all social relations with them; whereas Himmler, filled with the elitist missionary zeal of the SS felt far superior to all the others."

Hitler was especially afraid of Röhm and did not give him a post in his government. Röhm complained to Hermann Rauschning: "Adolf is a swine. He only associates with the reactionaries now. His old friends aren't good enough for him. Getting matey with the East Prussian generals. They're his cronies now. Are we revolutionaries or aren't we? The generals are a lot of old fogies. They will never have a new idea... I don't know where he's going to get his revolutionary spirit from. They're the same old clods, and they'll certainly lose the next war." Many people in the party disapproved of the fact that Röhm, and many other leaders of the SA, including his deputy, Edmund Heines, were homosexuals. Konrad Heiden, a German journalist who investigated these rumours later claimed that Heines was at the centre of this homosexual ring. "The perversion was wide-spread in the secret murderers' army of the post-war period, and its devotees denied that it was a perversion. They were proud, and regarded themselves as 'different from the others', meaning better." However, Hitler allowed him to continue in his post. According to Ernst Hanfstaengel, during this period, Hitler was frightened of Röhm. Another homosexual SA officer, hinted in the early 1930s that a few words would have sufficed to silence Hitler had he complained about Röhm's behavior. Hermann Göring, Joseph Goebbels and Heinrich Himmler were all concerned with the growing power of Röhm, who continued to make speeches in favour of socialism. As Peter Padfield has pointed out, the Sturmabteilung (SA) "now a huge, heterogeneous and generally discontent army of four million,

threatened the hereditary leadership of the Army, the Junker landowners, the bureaucracy, and the heavy industrialists" with talk of a second revolution. A short video on all of this:

<https://youtu.be/ZrbbKMnPDuk>

Throughout the 1920s Feder was a leader of the anti-capitalist wing of the Nazi Party. In 1924 he was elected to the Reichstag. He put forward his views in *Das Programm der NSDAP* (1931), *Kampf gegen die Hochfinanz* (1933) and *Die Juden* (1933) where he expressed his anti-semitic views. Konrad Heiden pointed out that Feder also had to serve under someone who completely opposed his economic policies: "The post of under-secretary was a humiliating position. His new superior was almost a stranger to the party, but familiar to the stock exchange, he was Doctor Karl Schmitt, general director of the largest German insurance company. A more pronounced representative of rapacious capital would have been hard to find; Schmitt had spent his life lending money and collecting interest; he had literally bought his way into the National Socialist Movement by giving the party generous aid in hard times." Feder continued to campaign for nationalization, profit-sharing, the abolition of unearned incomes and the "thrall of interest". Hitler refused to do this. As Alan Bullock, in (1962) pointed out: "Hitler had never been a Socialist; he was indifferent to economic questions. What he saw, however, was that radical economic experiments at such a time would throw the German economy into a state of confusion, and would prejudice, if not destroy, the chances of cooperation with industry and business to end the Depression and bring down the unemployment figures."

Hitler confirmed this in a speech he made on 6th July, 1933: "The revolution is not a permanent state of affairs, and it must not be allowed to develop into such a state. The stream of revolution released must be guided into the safe channel of evolution. We must therefore not dismiss a business man if he is a good businessman, even if he is not yet a National Socialist; and especially not if the National Socialist who is to take his place knows nothing about business. In business, ability must be the only authoritative standard. History will not judge us according to whether we have removed and imprisoned the largest number of economists, but according to whether we have succeeded in providing work. The ideas of the programme do not oblige us to act like fools and upset everything, but to realize our trains of thought wisely and carefully. In the long run our political power will be all the more secure, the more we succeed in underpinning it economically." As Feder held the important post of chairman of the party's economic council, his anti-capitalist views led to a decline in financial support from Germany's major industrialists. Hjalmar Schacht warned Hitler that Feder's economic planning apparatus would ruin the German economy. After pressure from figures such as Albert Voegler, Gustav Krupp, Friedrich Flick, Fritz Thyssen and Emile Kirdorf, Hitler decided to move the party away from Feder's left-wing economic theories. When Hitler became Reichskanzler in 1933, he appointed Feder as an under-secretary of the ministry of economics in July, which disappointed Feder due to it not being a prominent role. After the Night of the Long Knives in June 1934, where SA leaders like Ernst Röhm and actual Socialist party officials like Gregor Strasser were murdered while his brother Otto Strasser went into exile. Feder's role in party affairs drastically diminished, and by 1936 he had been relegated to virtual obscurity. Until he later decided to resign from the party after being sent into obscurity. As for the party program only 13 out of the 25 points were used in actual economic policy, therefore the 25 point program of the NSDAP doesn't actually represent a correct example of Third Reich's economics. Hjalmar Schacht and Fritz Reinhard were responsible for the economic recovery of Germany, not Feder.

Book Resources:

Hitler's Revolution - <https://www.amazon.com/Hitlers-revolution-Richard-Tedor/dp/0988368226>

The Wages of Destruction -

<https://www.amazon.com/Wages-Destruction-Making-Breaking-Economy/dp/0143113208>

The Rise and Fall of The Third Reich -

<https://www.amazon.com/Rise-Fall-Third-Reich-History/dp/1451651686>

Hitler: Democrat - <https://www.amazon.com/Hitler-Democrat-Gen-Leon-Degrelle/dp/1937787117>

Mein Kampf - <https://www.amazon.com/Mein-Kampf/dp/0395925037>

Germany Tomorrow -

<https://www.amazon.com/Germany-Tomorrow-OTTO-STRASSER/dp/1376168200>

Hitler's National Socialist Characteristics:

*The Führerprinzip: Basically, the political will of the nation is embodied in the Führer, a type of political absolutism, rendering most forms of democracy abolished. Economics don't matter anymore, only what is good for the people of the national community.

*Pan-Germanism: The notion that all people of Germanic descent should be unified within one Greater German Reich.

*Empire: Hitler believed that Germany lacked the essential resources required for the Reich's survival, and devised a Mercantilist theory in which Germany would have autarky and regain lost German land by peaceful or imperial means.

*Eugenics: In accordance with Hitler's racist beliefs, the Third Reich implemented eugenic laws for the enhancement of the race. The NSDAP also passed legislation outlawing miscegenation. This includes anti-Jewish laws (the Nuremberg Laws). This included agrarianism and environmentalist views that were tied into Racial ecology.

*Dirigisme: Adolf Hitler preserved private ownership over most enterprises, under the strict condition that the state regulated these businesses to run in accordance with the nation's collective interests. Such regulations included price controls, wage controls, job security, investment controls, dividend restrictions, production quotas, and state directed trade. Germany's central bank was nationalized, as were companies which didn't comply with state ordinances.

*Social-Welfare: Hitler's regime also implemented several social welfare measures. A new socialized healthcare program was started, expanding coverage to all German citizens; public work projects were created to combat unemployment; social security was expanded; low cost homes were constructed for the German proletariat, generous loans, tax breaks, and welfare services were given to German families; the

Kraft durch Freude state initiative gave paid vacations to all German workers, as well as free cultural events to attend; etc.

Strasserist Social Nationalist Characteristics:

*International-Nationalism: This ideal would entail an economic cooperation between all Socialistic partners, so as to avoid the counterproductive aspects of economic competition between states and help create a coalition against capitalism. Historically this means allying with the Soviet Bloc.

*Anti-Imperialism: The Strasser brothers both believed in the right to self determination for all races, cultures, & and states.

*Federalism: The Strasser brothers promoted the decentralization of Germany, turning the nation into several distinct regions which would be self-governing autonomous communities, though all regions would practice the same guild socialist economic model and German culture.

*Socialization: The Strasser brothers promoted the outright collectivization of the means of production. Worker guilds were to govern their workplaces, with state oversight to ensure such businesses were acting in accordance with nationalist interests. The bourgeoisie were to be abolished in the new socialist mode of production. Finance capital was also to be nationalized by the state.

*Land Reform: The Strasser faction of the NSDAP promoted the expropriation of the large landed estates of the Aristocracy, Industrialist and Military in Germany, with the land to be redistributed to the people. All land would be owned by the state, but family farmers would be granted hereditary title to the plots of land. The farms would remain in the possession of each family until such time as the family no longer had a descendant willing to farm the land.

My Thoughts

If Strasserism had its way, National Socialism would have never got to power, for they would have disrupted its appeal, frightening off essential support. No sensible person will really credit these men with the ability to succeed in Hitler's place in winning and holding the hearts of a nation. Both the Strassers brothers were confined to the economic sphere with a disregard of other aspects. This deficiency, aggravated by their distortion of the Party's economic policy, meant that Otto was always a subversive. National Socialism, properly understood, has never been a mere combination of just socialism with nationalism, therefore yet another materialist doctrine. It derives from the conception of the National Community as a strong belief that this racial kinship justifies and decrees radical social justice, and thus the belief is increased by its belief in the Leadership Principle, again derived from its racial belief that private ownership and private enterprise must be subject to national regulation and supervision to ensure

that its productive efficacy is fairly distributed and in accordance with national requirements; but it has never accepted the idea that nationalisation of property is the only and necessary means to adequate social justice, any more than it has been prepared to tolerate the anarchic inequity of liberal capitalism as the only answer and necessary means of preserving private property and enterprise. It has always stood for reconciliation, not a conflict of private and public interests. However, along with this economic outlook, National Socialism has always been far more than this, being first and foremost a racial outlook from which its economic outlook has followed but also an idealistic worldview rooted in the Prussian tradition of militarism; the Hegelian State.

The Strasserist of today, devotees of Gregor and Otto, accuse Hitler of becoming a tool of big business, and betraying his cause and his followers thereby. The crucial point in this connection is not whether Hitler accepted vitally needed money from big business or any other quarter, but whether in so doing he allowed any money from any source to prevent him from the cause he believed in and stood for, and the answer to this must on any sensible survey be an emphatic “no!” Hitler, whatever the hopes of contributors, was never for purchase, and always remained the master. Besides that as I have shown both of the Strasser brothers received money from the bourgeoisie like Hitler, just as any other revolutionary organization. Hitler was most likely going to push Germany into a synthesis of Gregor's ideals and his principle of Führerprinzip anyways after the war. According to Peter Stachura's biography of Gregor, he'd had meetings with Hitler sometime in late 1933/early 1934 with discussions about him joining the new government. Alfred Rosenberg's Memoirs also supports this. Himmler and Goering were the ones who drew up the death lists, they were the ones who wanted Gregor dead. Gregor was slated to be either Minister of Economics, Minister of Labor, or Minister for the Interior. Otto on the other hand should have been the one that died. He was responsible for many deaths at the Nuremberg trial. As for Gottfried Feder I feel bad for him but he wasn't realistic, therefore fell to the side like Gregor. As for Röhm I can only say he was a degenerate so died like a degenerate.